

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 CU-04 AGR-20

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 191608Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11004

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OEXC, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS ON MOYNIHAN-KABUL INFORMAL MEETING WITH
INDIAN JOURNALISTS: PL-480 SETTLEMENT AND FOREIGN
STUDENTS

1. ALL DELHI ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS EXCEPT COMMUNIST PATRIOT
GAVE PROMINENT TREATMENT SEPTEMBER 19 TO WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS
INFORMAL MEETING WITH INDIAN JOURNALISTS OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN
AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 18.
MOST ARTICLES LARGELY BASED ON PTI DISPATCH, WHICH SEEMS A MIXTURE
OF WHAT WAS REPORTEDLY SAID ON SEPTEMBER 18 AND WHAT PTI HAD
ALREADY BEEN TOLD.

2. PTI SAYS THAT PL 480 AGREEMENT IS NEARLY IN HAND, THAT IT
CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS AND PROVIDES FOR
THE MANNER AND TIME FRAME OF DISPOSAL OF THE PL-480 FUNDS.

3. PTI ALSO SAYS CURRENT EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT AGREEMENT WILL
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BE INITIALED IN NEW DELHI "POSSIBLY AFTER ONE OR TWO MORE

MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES" AND WILL BECOME OPERATIVE ONLY IF THE US CONGRESS DOES NOT RAISE OBJECTIONS TO IT. PTI SPECULATES THAT "THE AGREEMENT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE IN FEBRUARY NEXT."

4. SOME PAPERS CITE INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING THAT NEITHER PARTY WAS "RECKLESSLY GENEROUS BUT THAT THERE WAS MUCH GIVE AND TAKE." ACCORDING TO PTI "IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY AMERICAN SOURCES THAT WHEN THE TWO SIDES REACHED A DEAD END ON CERTAIN ISSUES THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CAME OUT WITH POSITIVE PROPOSALS."

5. STATESMAN ARTICLE, APPARENTLY ALSO BASED ON PTI DISPATCH ADDS "THE FINALIZATION OF THE AGREEMENT...WILL REMOVE ONE OF THE MAJOR IRRITANTS OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND TURN THE ATTENTION OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO OTHER MATTERS LIKE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIA, PROMOTION OF TRADE, INVESTMENT POLICY AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ON THESE QUESTIONS, NEGOTIATION ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY AT VARIOUS LEVELS."

6. ONE TRADE, MOST PAPERS SAID THAT AMERICAN VIEWPOINT IS THAT THE US IS INDIA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND WHILE INDIA'S EXPORTS TO THE US ARE INCREASING, INDIAN IMPORTS FROM THE US HAVE BEEN ON THE DECLINE. THEY ADD THAT THE INDIAN VIEWPOINT, ACCORDING TO KAUL IS THAT US IMPORTS FROM INDIA OF DOLS 680 (SIC) MILLION ARE ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF TOTAL AMERICAN IMPORTS OF DOLS 50 BILLION.

7. SAME ARTICLES ALSO TOUCH ON INDIAN LIMITS OVER FOREIGN STUDENTS AND QUOTE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AS SAYING "I WAS NOT COMPLAINING. I HAD SAID THAT SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES WILL SUFFER. THERE IS NO WAY THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA CAN HAVE A DISAGREEMENT IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE THIS IS ENTIRELY WITHIN THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHAT IT WANTS TO DO. I GUESS WE WOULD COMPLAIN, AS YOU WILL DO, IF THERE WAS UNEQUAL TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION, BUT THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION ABOUT IT."SCHNEIDER

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